SUBJECTS.

many petitions were put in for the registration of certain *puduvals* in the Neyyattinkara, Vilavancode, Trivandrum and Nedumangad taluks, but to no purpose. Many obstacles were thrown in their way by the inhabitants of the locality, assisted by some of the subordinate revenue officials. The effect of this was that the *puduvals*, which were hitherto unknown to the people but sought and found out by the Pulayas, were obtained by the rich higher classes and the Pulayas were persecuted and driven out from their habitations, and even the little they had before, was lost to them now. They had no other alternative but to appeal to the mercy of the paternal Government. The Member prayed that some *puduvals* at least be registered to the members of his community and that, out of the registered waste lands lying useless, some might be given to them as an experimental measure for their comfort and convenience. The Member pointed out also the hardship they suffered at the hands of the rich land-owners in that they were evicted out of the holdings where they had been allowed to live and which by their own exertions they had made habitable and productive. Besides this, he said that some of the officials of the Forest Department, with the connivance of some of the rich men of the locality, forced them to go out of their habitations in the forests, bringing in the plea of Forest Reserves, and at the same time permitting others to take possession of those places. This sort of high-handedness was carried on chiefly at Valiakavunkal in the Ranni proverthy, Chenganoor taluk, Alapra muri in the Changanacherry taluk, and at Perumbath muri in the Thiruvellah taluk. He prayed that grievances such as these should be remedied.

Dewan's reply.—His Highness' Government are doing what they can to help the Pulayas. Out of 779 petitions for the registry of *puduvals* preferred on behalf of the Pulayas, so many as 769 related to *poramboke* lands which could not be assigned. There are more than 500 acres of waste lands in the Vilappil *pakuthi* available for registry. If the Pulayas would like to go over there, the Peishkar may be approached.

(2) Forest Revenue.

14. The whole quantity of teak timber should not be given to contractors but at least half of it may be given to the public also.

Mr. M. M. Varghese (Member, Kottayam Trading Classes) represented that the people of Travancore did not obtain good timber for building purposes. The contractors, Messrs Wallibhoy Khaderbhoy and Co., sold almost all the good and serviceable timber elsewhere, and the timber sold by public auction in the Sircar depots was quite unfit for building purposes, and even this refuse could be got only at exorbitant rates. On rare occasions, the contractors sold timber locally, but at rates which they chose to fix. The result was

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SUBJECTS

that people could obtain only timber of bad quality and that at enhanced prices. It was regrettable that the sons of the soil should depend on the good will and pleasure of foreigners for timber to erect their habitations. The Member stated also that, as a further inducement to the contractors to refuse the sale of good teak timber within the State, they were allowed to export their timber free of duty to other countries where they fetched higher prices. He pointed out that the contract would expire by next December, and he urged that such measures should be adopted in giving a new contract, as were conducive to the well being and convenience of the people. He suggested that provision should be made that the teak timber required for the *bonafide* private use of the people might be purchased from the Sircar depots, at Sircar rates, without allowing the contractors the first chance of selection.

Dewan's reply.—The contract expires by November 1912, and it is not intended to renew the contract or to give a contract like that again.

15. The need for demarcating the boundaries of the proposed Forest Reserves, such as Kumaramperur North and South, Rajampara etc., so as to exclude therefrom registered holdings and inhabited localities. The policy of creating Reserves near registered holdings and adding to the existing Reserves, in spite of the G. O. dated 23rd February 1908, declaring that the Government would not go in for further reservation, is also complained about.

Mr. Parameswaran Narayanan (Member, Chenganoor taluk) said that the inhabitants of localities near Forest Reserves were put to unnecessary hardships on account of increasing the Reserves occasionally and the want of clear demarcation of their boundaries. About three-fourths of the Chenganoor taluk consisted of Reserves settled or proposed. Now, additional Reserves have been proposed in the two *pakuthies* of Ranni and Kumbazha, and in them there were many inhabited localities, besides areas under occupation by the people. Most of these lands were included in the boundaries of former *puduvals*, but were divided from them in the last Settlement, and as such, under the present circumstances, even some doorways and court-yards of habitations had come within the Sircar forests. Further, he said that people who lived in those parts could not but travel through forbidden lands and that plants and trees in them might be injured accidentally, giving occasion for the operation of the Forest Regulation. Of late, many prosecutions have resulted from this cause. Thus, the people were not only deprived of their holdings in those parts, but they were forced to answer criminal charges against them for no fault of their own. He pointed out also that many Jenmies' *cherikals*, rubber estates, and registered holdings were included in the proposed Reserves, and he cited instances in Chethikal, Karinkulam, Rajampara, Kumaramperur North and South and Anakulam Reserves. The Member further stated that, in spite of the G. O. of 23rd February 1908, declaring that the Government would *not* go in for further reservation, a new Reserve, under the name of Kumaramperur North Extension Reserve, has been

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